

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
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UNCLAS GENEVA 0264

DEPT ALSO PASS DR EHRLICH, OIH/DHEW

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WHO, OCON
SUBJECT: 59TH WHO EB - 2ND AND 3RD DAYS

REF: GENEVA 0229

1. SUMMARY. 2ND AND 3RD DAYS DEVOTED TO LENGTHY AND OFTEN
REPETITIVE DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS NO. 6 AND 7. US POINTS
WERE MADE BY CANADA AND UK, EVEN MORE TELLINGLY BY USSR AND
CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE.

2. SALIENT POINTS. 1) COMSENSUS THAT EB SHOULD MEET ONLY IN
GENEVA; 2) PROGRAM COMMITTEE COULD MEET ELSEWHERE, IF NECES-
SARY; 3) PER DIEM AND TRAVEL TO BE PAID TO EB MEMBERS ONLY
WHEN ON SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS APPROVED BY THE BOARD; 4) DOCU-
MENTATION ISSUE EXHAUSTIVELY DISCUSSED AND PROPOSED FINAL
RESOLUTION WILL ASSURE AVAILABILITY IN ENGLISH OF EB AND WHA
WORKING DOCUMENTS AND SUMMARY RECORDS; 5) EB WILL CONTINUE
TO MEET TWICE YEARLY AS AT PRESENT.

3. OTHER MAJOR POINTS. 1) INSTEAD OF ENLARGING PROGRAM
COMMITTEE, DECISION WAS THAT CURRENT MEMBERS COULD
SERVE AS HEADS OF SMALL SUBCOMMITTEES DRAWN FROM EB TO
STUDY SELECTED PROGRAM AREAS; 2) VALUE OF TECHNICAL
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DISCUSSIONS CHALLENGED BY FINLAND WHO REQUESTED AN
EVALUATION OF TIME TAKEN AND COSTS TO BE BASED ON EX-
PERIENCE OF NEXT TWO WHAS; 3) ATTEMPTS TO DEFINE TECH-
NICAL COOPERATION FAILED IN SPITE OF MANY HOURS OF
EFFORT, BUT IT WAS AGREED TO POSTPONE PRECISE
DEFINITION IN FAVOR OF CONCEPT INTERPRETED BY DG MAHLER
IN EB 59/6, PAGE 6, PARA 14.

4. REGARDING ARABIC LANGUAGE, DG INFORMED EB THAT ARABIC LEAGUE HAS NOW DEMANDED IMMEDIATE AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF ARABIC AS FULL WORKING LANGUAGE. MAHLER STATES THIS WILL COST UP TO \$3 MILLION, FOR WHICH PROVISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE IN 1979 BUDGET. MAHLER INSISTED THAT EB COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED TO STUDY AND MAKE A DECISION ON ENTIRE QUESTION OF WORKING LANGUAGES, WHICH NOW COMPRISE OVER 10 PERCENT OF REGULAR BUDGET.

5. REPRESENTATION OF EB OF WHA (AGENDA ITEM 7). BOARD NAMED CHAIRMAN VALLODARES AND THREE OTHERS, BUTERA (RWANDA), CUMMING (AUSTRALIA) AND REED (UK).

6. FYI, DISCUSSIONS PROCEEDING EXTREMELY SLOWLY RESULTING IN FIRST SATURDAY SESSION. CATTO

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